## Islands in the Stream Expedition 2001 Field Season

### Dive Summary

# Tortugas Ecological Reserve 7/7/2001

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Islands in the Stream

#### Overview of Dive A09-162 at Tortugas Ecological

Laddie Akins piloted this dive at the site known as Tortugas Ecological Reserve (24.44567 / -83.12400) on 7/7/2001 starting at 15:52:00. Total dive time was 5:23:00 and the maximum depth reached was 250 feet. (All times EST)

Dive Objectives. Objectives accomplished during the dive include:

Fish Assessment

Primary

**Data Collected.** Types of data collected during the dive include: Tracking

#### **Living Marine Resources Abundance**

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant >100

Pelagic Fish	Abundant	C
Bottom Fish	Abundant	
Crustacean	None	
Mollusk	Few	
Echinoderm	Few	

Other Benthic

Soft corals on top of ledge

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

#### **General Comments**

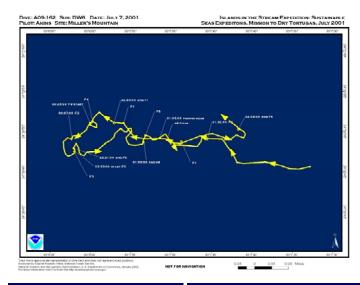
Very unique site for the numbers of Grouper and other species, even though the habitat is mostly low profile (other than the ledge). Glad this is in the Reserve!!



Prepared by : National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 7/7/2001

#### **Dive Track Description**

After doing the run to the bottom and back to the surface three times due to underweighting and bad comms, I finally dropped down right on the edge of the ledge at about 250'. I conducted one fish survey on the top of the ledge, then headed to the base at about 425'. I conducted two surveys at the base of the ledge moving in a westerly direction, then ascended to the top of the ledge. The following 3 surveys were conducted on the top of the ledge moving along the edge in an esterly direction. Relief of features observed during the dive ranged from to 5 meters.



#### **Observed Human Activities**

None Observed.

#### **Observed Human Impacts**

None Observed.

#### **Overall Dive Site Ratings**

1 = low; 10 = high

Uniqueness	8	
Health	5	
Disturbance	2	
Biodiversity	8	

#### **Observed Fish Abundance**

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant >100 ank Butterfly Many

Bank Butterfly	Many
Blue Angelfish	Few
Creolefish	Many
Greater Amberjack	Abunda
Other Bigeye	Few
Other Butterfly	Single
Other Grouper	Few
Other Small Bass	Many
Other Wrasses	Many
Red Snapper	Many
Reef Butterfly	Few
Roughtongue Bass	Abunda
Scamp	Abunda
Spanish Flag	Few
Spotfin Butterfly	Few
Spotfin Hogfish	Few